(c) what steps Government has taken or proposes to take to increase the spending on education to the committed level of 6 per cent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Though Expenditure on education by education and other departments as percentage of GDP has come down slightly from 3.78 in 2002-03 to 3.64 (Provisional) in 2007-08, expenditure on education by education department only as percentage of GDP has increased during the same period from 3.03 in 2002-03 to 3.05 (Provisional) in 2007-08.

(c) During Eleventh Five Year Plan, Ministry of Human Resource Development has been allocated Rs.2,69,873 crore (Rs.1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education and Literacy and Rs.84,943 crore for the Department of Higher Education) which constitutes 19.4% of the total Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation, as compared to 7.7% in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of spending 6% of GDP for education. Overall progress towards this goal would however, also depend on the efforts made by the States.

Inquiry of deemed universities

†1100. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the deemed universities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would get the matter inquired through an independent agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are no irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the Deemed Universities. All the grants are being released as per UGC guidelines/norms. The Government have already constituted a Committee of eminent academics, independent of the UGC, to review the functioning of institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Setting up new colleges

1101. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new colleges in 2009-10 in educationally backward districts;

(b) if so, how many colleges are likely to set up in minority populated districts;

(c) whether such minority populated districts have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government has any plan to set up new colleges in Amroha, Moradabad, Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh which are minority concentrated and educationally backward; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) There is a proposal to launch a new scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national GER for higher education. These include 62 districts identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs as minority concentration districts where the population of the minority group is over 20% on the basis of the 2001 census data on population, and have poor socio-economic indicators and basic amenities indicators, 17 districts where minorities constitute 20% or more of the population and 36 districts which are dominated by those who are religious minorities nationally but are a majority in the respective States.

Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh figures in the list of identified educationally backward districts.

Criteria for recognition of private colleges

1102. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently criticised education regulators for the casual manner of giving recognition to private professional colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to cleanse the education system, Government purposes to lay down fresh criteria for the recognition of private colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promoting vocational courses

1103. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any policy for promotion of vocational courses in secondary schools to tackle problem of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary allocations in Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans for vocational education in schools in Rajasthan and its utilisation;

(d) the total sanctioned and filled-in strength of vocational educational teachers, in different categories in Rajasthan;